REMARKS

A principal purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to remove the multiply dependent claims and avoid the fee associated therewith, applicant reserving the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Zelano (Reg No. 27,969)

Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P. C. 2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400

Arlington, Virginia 22201

(703)812-5311

Internet address: zelano@mwzb.com

Filed: February 12, 2001

RJT(pdr):K:\PAT\Sgw\109\preliminary amendment.wpd

2